

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A microcomputer comprising ~~[[a]]~~ an internal memory, a central processing unit, and a functional block comprising a peripheral block, built-in said microcomputer, wherein said internal memory has a reprogrammable nonvolatile memory storing user data, and in which a lock code is written in a specified area; and

the microcomputer has a first mode, wherein the central processing unit fetches instructions from an external memory, and a second mode, wherein the central processing unit fetches instructions from the internal memory and inhibits fetching instructions from the external memory, and comprising:

a first decoding circuit connected with said nonvolatile memory, which reads out said lock code, and decodes said lock code;

a logic circuit that performs a predetermined operation on an externally input mode bit, by the output from the first decoding circuit; and

a second decoding circuit that decodes the processing mode bit by receiving the output from said logic circuit, and sends the obtained results to said functional block, wherein

when a predetermined value is set into said specified area as the lock code
~~comprises a plurality of bits and has a priority over the mode bit that causes an~~

~~operation mode of the microcomputer to be changed, the microcomputer is~~
configured to be set into the second mode,

2. (Original) The microcomputer of claim 1, wherein said logic circuit consists of an AND circuit.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A microcomputer comprising ~~[[a]]~~ an internal memory, a central processing unit, a functional block comprising a peripheral block, built-in said microcomputer, and an external terminal, wherein said internal memory comprises a reprogrammable nonvolatile memory storing user data, and in which a function-selecting code for selecting the function of the external terminal is written in a specified area; and

said microcomputer comprises:

a first decoding circuit connected with the nonvolatile memory, which reads out said function-selecting code and decodes this code; and

a selector circuit that selects a function of the external terminal by receiving the output from said first decoding circuit, wherein

the function-selecting code comprises a plurality of bits and has a priority over data received via said external terminal to cause an operation mode of the microcomputer to be changed from a first function mode to a second function mode,

wherein in the first function mode the central processing unit is configured to fetch instructions from an external memory, and in the second function mode the central processing unit is configured to fetch instructions from the internal memory and inhibit fetching instructions from said external memory.

6. (Currently Amended) A microcomputer comprising ~~[[a]]~~ internal memory, a central processing unit, and a functional block comprising a peripheral block, built-in said microcomputer, wherein said internal memory comprises a reprogrammable nonvolatile memory storing user data, and in which a limiting code for limiting a command is written in a specified area; and

said microcomputer comprises:

a first decoding circuit connected with said nonvolatile memory, which reads out said limiting code, and decodes this code; and

a second decoding circuit that limits a command to be used, by the output from said first decoding circuit, wherein

~~the limiting code comprises a plurality of bits and has a priority over the command to cause an operation of the microcomputer changed~~

when a first predetermined value is set into the specified area as the limiting code, the central processing unit is configured to fetch instructions from an external memory, and

when a second predetermined value is set into the specified area as the limiting code, the central processing unit is configured to fetch instructions from said internal memory and inhibit fetching instructions from said external memory.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The microcomputer of claim 1, wherein said reprogrammable nonvolatile memory consists of a data memory and a program memory.

9. (Original) The microcomputer of claim 1, wherein the logic circuit masks the input mode bit by the decoded lock code.